



Allandale Neighbor

June 2020
Vol 35, Issue 3

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Association
and Allandale Neighbors

July 4th Update

In light of the current COVID-19 situation and to do our part in preventing large crowd gatherings, Allandale's annual July 4th parade is going to look a bit different this year!

Presenting... The Reverse Parade, occurring the evening of July 4th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Feel comfortable gathering with your friends and neighbors and showing your patriotic spirit?

You still can!! Get together with your neighbors and make your street festive – lights, floats, décor!! Hire a local Austin musician! Classic car gathering, hire a

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Gooch Legacy Lives On in Lifelong Readers

Laura Beck and many others

In the summer of 2010, I took my then six-year-old to a read-aloud at Gullett, where she'd be starting kinder in the fall. As soon as I opened the library door, I remember hearing a booming laugh carry across a room full of books. A loud librarian? Say no more, I'd found a friend for life.

Fast forward to March 23, about 10 days into this crazy Coronavirus time, and right before kiddos were going to be tackling a whole new world of online learning, and there are all the Gullett teachers and staff, snaking through the neighborhood to drive by as many kiddos' homes as possible, honking, cheering, and singing to the delight of their students, and to the emotional tears of many of us adults. Who was LITERAL-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Seeking Rain Garden Stewards!

Ranleigh Hirsh

Working with the City of Austin, Allandale Neighborhood Association has the opportunity to install rain garden bioswales at the following intersections on Shoal Creek Boulevard:

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Park Visits Provide Relief from Staying Home and Inspiration for New Park Master Plan

Mary Fero, ANA Parks, Recreation and Greenspace Committee

Spring of 2020 brought challenges, as everyone coped with staying home and only occasional excursions. Many

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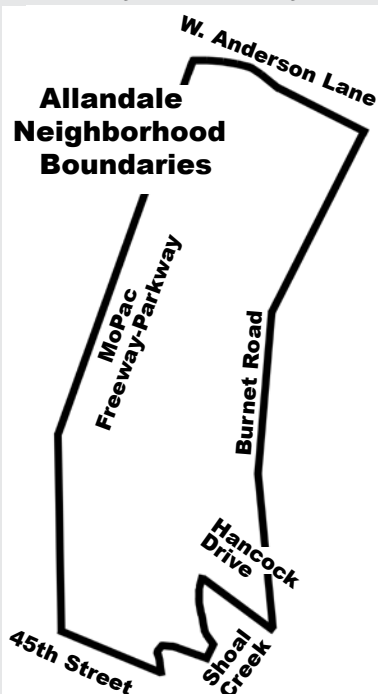
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the
first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.
General Membership meetings are held in March and
September.

Committees

BYLAWS Amanda Cagle
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MEMBERSHIP Andrew Kerr
NOMINATING Diana Wheeler
PARKS Mary Fero
SAFETY Julie Peckham and
Amanda Cagle
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President's Letter

Diana Wheeler, ANA President

(512) 699-1848, Allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

Hello neighbors,
As we continue to navigate life during COVID-19, I asked my two kids (middle school and high school age) to list, from their point of view, some societal impacts of COVID-19. Here are some things they highlighted as terrible:

- High death toll
- People aren't getting enough human interaction and companionship
- People feel unsafe going out in public
- Many countries are running out of medical equipment and supplies

But as in any situation, there are also some silver linings amidst the misery:

- People in the neighborhood are walking and biking more
- The environment is getting a break from fossil fuel use
- We are using technology to work from home and do online school
- People are working together to solve large problems

Now I would like to continue the introduction of three more of the ANA volunteer board members - Amanda Cagle, Dan Eden and Mary Fero:

Amanda Cagle joined the board in September 2018, and she is the ANA board secretary. She is the mother of three boys and an enforcement attorney with the Texas Department of Insurance. She grew up in Houston, graduated from Harvard University in 1989, moved to Austin for law school and found it was home. Amanda loves living in such a vibrant, resilient, outspoken community. She lived in Hyde Park for almost 20 years, but then moved further out once her kids were born. She also spent five years in Portland, Oregon, but moved back to Austin and into Allandale in June 2017. Amanda and her family chose to move to Allandale primarily because of the community and schools. Their youngest has loved Lamar Middle School, their middle child is at LASA, and their oldest graduated from Anderson High in the IB program. Northwest Park, Eldorado Cafe, and the dog park are fixtures in their lives. Amanda loves hanging out on the front porch, but since COVID-19, it's helped her stay sane - sitting on the porch and visiting with our neighbors as they walk by. If anyone needs some rosemary, feel free to contact her and she'll clip a few sprigs.

Dan Eden joined the ANA board in November 2019. He is a native Texan, a two-time graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, and an Allandale resident since 2004. He has been a bookmobile driver, a teaching assistant at UT, a long-time state employee at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and an environmental consultant. Dan is married and has two grown daughters who graduated from McCal-

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July 4th Update

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

balloon artist – the ideas are ENDLESS! Own a business and want to be a sponsor? Reach out for sponsorship opportunities!

Allandale 2020 T-Shirts will also be available for purchase during the event.

Email allandalesocial@gmail.com that you plan to participate along with your address. We will add your details to a map that will be made public prior to the event, which will guide folks who can walk or drive, depending on their comfort level. Please find Allandale Neighborhood Association on Facebook for more details to come, as the event gets closer! ☼

President's Letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

lum High School. You can often see him walking his two German shepherds in the neighborhood, or working in his yard/garden near Northwest Park.

Mary Fero joined the ANA board in September 2019. She is the chair of the Parks, Recreation and Greenspace Committee.

A Baton Rouge native, Mary moved to Austin in 1971 and has lived in Allandale since 1988. She has learned that attending and hosting National Night Out parties is a great way to

get to know and stay in touch with your neighbors. Her daughter, stepdaughter, and one of her four grandchildren attended schools in Allandale.

Along with short stints in the private sector, Mary's career as a legislative aide, state agency liaison and public information manager took her from the halls of the Capitol, where laws are made, to the Texas Attorney General's Office, where laws are enforced, and finally to the Travis County Clerk's Elections Office, where officials who make our laws are elected. In these roles, she interacted with a wide range of agency and elected officials and the media, and particularly enjoyed helping Texans understand and access government information and assistance.

In her role as Chair of the ANA Parks Committee and co-chair of the Friends of Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park, she and other committee members work closely with Austin Parks and Recreation Department and key nonprofit organizations to support and gain funding for park improvements. They also work on efforts to enhance -- and sometimes tame -- area green spaces, and to support Shoal Creek cleanup efforts.

Mary has a particular fondness for the pond at Northwest Park, which she sees as a central focal point for education, enjoyment and quiet reflection for park visitors of all ages. She hopes to someday see it restored with clear water as a natural habitat for birds, turtles, fish and frogs. ☼

Renew your ANA membership! See page 23 of this newsletter for info.

Letters to the Editor:

We'd love for readers to submit newsletter ideas, stories, and reactions to articles.

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Park Visits Provide Relief from Staying Home and Inspiration for New Park Master Plan

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Allandale residents found relief at the park. People rediscovered the walking trails, and families picnicked and stopped to watch turtles, fish, and night herons at the pond while local musicians performed for those coming and going. Basketball and tennis courts quickly filled upon their re-opening.

We hope these experiences will inspire you to offer your ideas this fall to the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, as they begin the process of creating a new master plan for Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park.

PARD will contract with a consultant to guide community engagement during the master planning process. They expect that process to begin in early fall and be completed next summer.

Although master planning of parks has been standard practice in Austin since at least 1966, Northwest Park has operated under two plans: the original plan created in 1955, when the city purchased 30+ acres of land for the park, and a master plan was created 32 years later.

The park currently operates under the

master plan adopted December 1, 1987. That plan incorporated changes made to the park in 1984, when the entire park was re-engineered to serve as a flood detention facility, dramatically changing the topography of the land.

As fate would have it, the 2020-21 master plan also will be shaped by flood prevention efforts that could further modify the park. Austin Watershed Protection Department is overseeing an extensive project to address the need for modernization of the dam and deficiencies in the detention facility.

This Shoal Creek – Northwest Park Dam Maintenance and Modernization Project is now in its preliminary engineering phase, and the \$5 million bond-funded project is expected to begin construction in the spring of 2024 and be completed by fall, 2025.

Meanwhile, PARD will coordinate with Watershed Protection during the master planning process, and community preferences will help set the priorities for the most important upgrades or new features.

Limitations on the features that can go

in the park will be influenced by existing conditions, park type, PARD priorities and maintenance capabilities. These issues will be discussed early in the master planning process.

Funds to pay for the park master plan will be included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Capital Improvement Plan, when it is published with the City's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. Depending on the priorities in the plan, funding for implementation may come from a variety of sources, such as the 2018 capital improvement bond, parkland dedication fees, grants, partnerships, or park mitigation funding.

PARD expects the process to develop recommendations for the Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park master plan to take six to nine months and another two to three months to take the plan to relevant boards and commissions.

Remember – Northwest Park has had only two park plans in 65 years. It's definitely time for a new vision. Let's try to make it one that will stand the test of time - potentially for another generation! [see box below]

What's your vision for Northwest Park?

Over the past couple of years, ANA has received quite a few suggestions for new park amenities. We've included this list as a starting point for your consideration.

To create a new master plan that will serve us well for years to come, we'll need to show strong community support for improvements. When you visit the park this summer, dream big, and think about what you'd like to see in the future. You'll have a chance to have your say this fall!

Possibilities for new park amenities and improvements

- * new playground equipment
- * pool replacement and better changing areas
- * new/more restrooms
- * family changing restroom/changing room
- * pond restoration and habitat preservation
- * covered pavilion
- * performing arts space
- * movies, music, classes in the park
- * public art installation
- * dedicated youth soccer field
- * connected trail system with access for walkers, runners, bikers, strollers, wheelchairs
- * bike pump track
- * kiosk with local and historical information
- * water fountains near basketball and tennis courts
- * more seating areas and focal points
- * improved lighting throughout the park
- * safety call boxes
- * more flowers, less poison ivy. ☘

Seeking Rain Garden Stewards!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Great Oaks Parkway
Woodview Avenue
Northland Drive/2222,
Twin Oaks Drive
Greenlawn Parkway

These small gardens will help beautify our neighborhood and improve the intersections. ANA's Parks Committee is looking for a few volunteers interested in adopting these small rain gardens. Your time and energy will be well spent to improve our neighborhood! Interested? Read on:

A rain garden bioswale is a low area that absorbs and filters rainwater runoff that comes from roofs, sidewalks, driveways, and streets. During rain events, water runs quickly off these hard surfaces, collecting in the rain garden's shallow depression, allowing the water to slowly

soak into the soil, filtering the rainwater before it seeps into creeks and rivers. Best of all, they are planted with hardy, colorful native plants and grasses!

Rain gardens are integral to the Green Infrastructure Movement by helping to reduce impervious cover. These gardens also help conserve water by employing rainwater to water the plants, thereby reducing the need for supplemental watering. They help reduce flooding and erosion by allowing the rainwater to soak into the soil instead of rapidly washing into Shoal Creek. And their plants help filter street pollutants, roof runoff, lawn fertilizers, and even sidewalks, ultimately enhancing the water quality in Shoal Creek. Best of all, rain gardens are a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provide many community benefits in the long term.

Adopting one is also a great opportunity to teach your kiddos about conservation!

Rain garden adopters are needed to help develop our rain gardens from the ground up. ANA Parks committee members will work closely with adopters and a number of local organizations to get our projects completed. After the construction phase, each adopter will choose their plants and plant their garden. Ongoing maintenance includes watering regularly until plants are established, weeding as needed, and observing the performance of your rain garden over time to make sure it functions as planned.

These gardens might be small, but every bit helps improve the water quality in Shoal Creek and beautify Allandale! If you are interested please contact *Parks@ANA.com*. ☼

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Allandale Outside: An Allandale Vacation

Faye Holland

With all that we are currently going through, it is amazing how wonderful our weather has been in Central Texas. I feel like I should double cross my fingers and toes saying that, with what could come this summer. Lack of summer trips and less access to public swimming areas might make this a long hot season. This is even more reason to create a summer retreat in your own backyard. I have seen so many more above-ground pools and metal farm tanks for dunking around Allandale. It has been fun to see all of the landscaping and garden changes people are making. People are making their own home resorts and exploring Austin.

Looking for something to do in the

garden in June? It is not really the time to plant much except okra, black eyed peas, peanuts, and pumpkins. Okra is a hardy plant and will produce tasty pods throughout the hot summer. As a super bonus, the flowers are large and gorgeous. Just soak the seeds the day before, bury them in the ground a half an inch to an inch deep, and about twelve inches apart. You will have to water them often until they are established, but they are more drought-tolerant than other vegetables. Okra is also a superfood with vitamin B6, fiber, potassium, folic acid, calcium, and the good fats oleic and linoleic oil. If you don't pick the pods soon enough, they become super fibrous. The sliminess

bothers some people, but it can be avoided if they are uncut. Cut okra is also a great sauce thickener, as well. My favorite way to eat them is raw, right after they have been picked. It will be exciting to try them in the air fryer this year. June is also a good month to start pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and lots of hardy flowers. Make sure to water your in-ground plants and lawns deeply, but not too often. Plants in pots will need to be watered daily. This will help them deal with the heat better.

Now is also a great time to go to farmer's markets. It will help you add gourmet meals to your newly-created home retreat. A way to avoid the virus is to be outside, so what could be better than food shopping outside? I have gone to the farmer's market at Mueller on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. a few times. I felt I was able to maintain distance from people. Pets were not allowed in (they make it harder to social distance), and there was an attendant at the entrance, capping entry and making everyone sanitize their hands. Most vendors had credit card machines, so customers could put their card in the machine and didn't have to touch anything. We bought a huge bag of beautiful tomatoes to make sauce at home, a squash and zucchini plant, some soap, and delicious non-alcoholic ginger beer. It is also a good idea to support the small meat producers too, as having more meat processors will help with our area's food security. And how could I forget to tell you about the delicious Fredericksburg peaches! I am sure that you will find something special if you go, and the farmers were very appreciative.

To round out your staycation, make sure to prepare delicious summer vegetables. Making recipes from farmer's market finds is fun. Instant pot tomato sauce is a meal we like to make and eat. I found an online recipe that only uses roughly chopped tomatoes (just cut out the stem part of the tomato), onions, garlic, and carrots. The key is to sauté the onion slices until they are translucent, then put in the other cut-up vegetables. I harvest the fresh oregano, basil, and rosemary from our yard and place them on top of the vegetables without the stems. Not adding



Common questions we get:

How does our spending compare?
How can we pay less in taxes?
Is our college fund on track?
How should we invest our 401k?
Do we have the right insurance?
What about wills and trusts?
Can we afford to remodel or move?
Should we buy a rental property?
Should we just use index funds?

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water worked really well the times I have made the sauce. After it cooks on the stew setting for about 30 minutes, use an immersion blender to make the sauce smooth. You can decide whether you think your sauce needs a small can of tomato paste, because mine has been quite watery. The next time I will add some red wine before I cook it for a second 30 minutes. Do what you think makes sense for the sauce you make. Everyone in our family was happy with it, especially when it was served with a farmer's market fresh salad and crusty bread. Maybe you could end your meal with a sweet peach cobbler?

Enjoying being with family during the summer and finding fun productive things to do is readily available in Austin with some imagination. See you outside! ☘

BUG OFF! Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

Wizzie Brown

Crape myrtles are a popular landscape tree in parts of Texas, prized for their beauty. While this tree has been relatively maintenance-free for years, that is no lon-

ger the case now that crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) has been found in Texas.

Crape myrtle bark scales are small, wingless insects, pinkish in color and covered with a white, velvety covering. When you look at the bark of an infested tree, look for round to oval-shaped white velvety insects. If you puncture one with a toothpick, it will exude a pink substance.

When inspecting crape myrtles for CMBS, look along trunks and limbs, as well as smaller twigs and branches found towards the top of the tree. You'll want to look for scale insects and sooty mold. Sooty mold is a black-colored fungus that grows on honeydew; honeydew is an excretion from scale insects (and other small, soft-bodied insects such as aphids and mealybugs).

Heavily infested crape myrtles have CMBS that produce copious amounts of honeydew on the tree and surrounding area, which leads to growth of sooty mold, turning landscape plants black. Infested crape myrtles produce fewer and smaller blooms, which may be difficult to tell unless you have an uninfected tree to compare.

Only male crape myrtle bark scales can fly. Others are dispersed to nearby areas by wind, birds, other insects, or landscape

maintenance equipment. Long-distance transport occurs via infested material. Once CMBS are in an area, they can move on to nearby trees.

Control options are varied for

CMBS. There are ladybugs that eat CMBS, but this may take time for control, as the ladybug population is tied to the population of insects they feed upon. If you buy and plant crape myrtles, ensure that you inspect them and not plant any infested trees, or select a different species of tree or shrub for the landscape.

Pesticide treatment for crape myrtle bark scale can be done with either a contact spray or a systemic. Studies from Texas A&M University discovered that contact sprays should be used when pest numbers are peaking (crawler/nymph numbers peak mid-April through May), and two treatments should be done, with the second treatment taking place two weeks after the initial treatment. Insecticides with bifenthrin as the active ingredient tend to work best.

Systemic treatments should be applied earlier, when the leaves are budding out. Systemics such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran are best used as a soil treatment in March, so that they are taken up by the tree and in place for the crawler population in April - May. These products should be used when trees are NOT in bloom, to protect pollinators.

For a video on how to treat crape myrtles for CMBS, you should go to this link: <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2018/08/28/how-to-treat-your-crapemyrtle-for-bark-scale/>

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at (512) 854-9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com ☘

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PM Worship Service 10:30 am
PM Worship Service 5:00 pm

Wednesday Schedule

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

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Gooch Legacy Lives On in Lifelong Readers

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Kay Gooch as Mother Ginger at Gullett Elementary

LY the leader of the parade? That same loud librarian, Kay Gooch, with that same infectious laugh booming over her Subaru car horn.

For all she's done for so many families, all the lives she's touched, all the lifelong lovers of reading she's grown, Kay Gooch deserves a parade of her own, a party to end all parties to celebrate her in her retirement. But alas, Ay Corona, and here we are, trying to honor someone with another Zoom and an article in the newsletter. Therefore, pressure is on to make this one good (by making sure I'm not the only voice!).

Before we get to the better voices, I gotta share a little bio info on this larger-than-life human. Kay has been the librarian at Gullett Elementary for 19 years. Her first Gecko babies have just finished their first year of college. Before Gullett, she taught at Lee and Patton Elementary. She taught for 27 years after earning her master's degree in Library and Informa-

tion Science from UT. (Sorry, THE University of Texas at Austin, don't want to tick off any Longhorns being too casual). But what I think is most impressive is that Kay went into teaching after a successful (and lucrative) 15-year career in business. She was an IBM rock star who left it all to shape young minds.

Gooch was honored in 2015 with the Texas statewide Siddie Joe Johnson Award, which is a Big Deal in the librarian world. Her energy encouraging Gullett students to read and raise money for BookSpring annually has raised thousands of dollars to buy books for deserving Austin area kiddos. She brought Texas Blue-bonnet books to life each year for students (and some parents), including summer camps. Oh, and let's not forget Kay's "cousin," who shows up in an elaborate costumed persona matching the theme of each year's book fair.

But perhaps her most proud honor is that, in 2011, sitting in the audience of

The Nutcracker with some of her devoted fans (my daughter and her besties), Gooch commented that she always wanted to be Mother Ginger. Less than one year later, she made it so. Kay was the 2012 winner of the community-nominated role, getting more votes than any other nominee. Ever.

She celebrated Gullett's BookSpring win that year by bringing the entire Mother Ginger costume to the Gullett playground to dance for the kids. That year might have been considered tame. Other BookSpring celebrations included teachers dancing on the school roof, Gooch dressing like Taylor Swift, and leading a school wide Troll parade.

This woman is magical. I'm honored to call her friend. And now she's moving on to a well-deserved retirement after 27 years lighting up every student who is privileged to have spent time with her. So enough from ME, let's hear from some of those students, and parents, who have



Masked Kay Gooch
with Gooch Fan, Lucas
Stockton

become part of the Always-Growing Kay Gooch Fan Club:

"Seeing Ms. Gooch as Mother Ginger in The Nutcracker was one of her most iconic moments. The other was when she turned the Gullett monkey bars into a Mother Ginger skirt, and danced along with the whole school to Gangnam Style to celebrate our BookSpring win."

--Maddie Dixon

"Kay Gooch makes anyone she sees feel like she has just been waiting for them to show up."

-- Andrea Griswold

"While we will miss Ms. Gooch terribly, we are so thankful to have met and known her. During her 19-year tenure, she was the number-one cheerleader for the entire Gullett community, sharing her heart and soul with everyone she met. Her enthusiasm for the school is and remains infectious. Greater yet is her passion for sharing the gift of reading with each and every child that walks through not only the Gullett library doors, but all children in Austin, as evidenced by Gullett's BookSpring efforts. We hope this incredible woman never retires from Being Awesome. We wish her the very best in her

next chapter of life and the incredible stories it will hold."

-- Ann Schwartz Heffington

"My guys loved Bluebonnet camps, even when they got lice from the story steps."

--Jennifer Carson

"It's hard to believe that Ms. Gooch's time as a librarian is coming to an end. She inspired my love of books and reading, which is still in me today. From being Mother Ginger to Bluebonnet breakfast and lunch to bringing Bookfairs to life to letting us eat straight sugar cubes in her office, Ms. Gooch is in so many of my best memories of Gullett. I love being a counselor at Bluebonnet camp (and watching The Bachelorette in her bedroom while she reads to the campers), and I love the fact that she's usually the last to leave the parties at my house; long after I was sent to bed, I could hear her laugh. I wish Ms. Gooch nothing but the best in this next chapter of her life. But luckily for me, I believe this just means I will be seeing more of her. Thank you, Ms. Gooch, for the love, laughter, memories, and for being the best librarian I have ever known."

--Thea Cahoon

"When my daughter started kinder, I was amazed at Kay's ability to know every child by name and make them each feel so special. Over the years, I have been blessed to watch her share her gifts with our entire community, kids and adults."

--Gina Ross

"I remember when I was in kindergarten, the author of Amelia Bedelia came to Gullett. I felt so special because, since my name was Amelia, Ms. Gooch let me give him the Gullett T-shirt. That was a memory I will never forget about Ms. Gooch. She is the best librarian I could have ever wanted."

--Amelia Cahoon

"My mom's career has been inspirational to me on many levels, and I feel extremely fortunate to have moved back to Austin in time to watch her instill a love of reading in this next generation during her final years at Gullett. I know she will miss seeing students daily, but am confident that her legacy of fundraising, reading, and performing books and FUN in the library will live on."

-- Elizabeth Hood ☼

Allandale Eating

Robert E. Mace, Dining from Daugherty

The pandemic is really messing with the pots and pans of the restaurant industry, as owners and chefs adjust to the new reality of shut-ins, take-outs, and partial openings. Restaurant casualties have started to trickle in, including Phonic, Chocolaterie Tessa, North by Northwest, Threadgill's, and Shady Grove, as well as the premature closings of Veracruz All-Natural on 183 and Enchiladas y Mas (which may return). The Austin Business Journal reported that Trudy's will be putting itself up for auction. Although Trudy's financial issues preceded the outbreak (they filed for bankruptcy in January), the virus can't be helping. The good news is that, so far, the vast majority of our food-slingers have adapted and are still with us, albeit at a lower capacity. But time will tell. Again, I encourage you to support our local restaurants by getting take-out and tipping mightily.

The bride and I have been doing our part by partaking of Trudy's (I surprised myself on how tearfully happy I was to enjoy a Mexican martini along with migas enchiladas), Tumble 22, The San Francisco Bakery, Easter brunch from The Peached Tortilla, Andiamo's, dipdipdip, Dos Batos, Le Bleu, Flyrite, Gusto, Shu Shu's, celebratory dinners from Texas French Bread and Barley Swine, T'so, Waterloo Ice House, Honest Mary's, Tacodeli, Jack Allen's Kitchen, and Big O's Pit BBQ (review this issue; to see photos of the above, please visit austinwanderlist.com). We've also joined the bread-baking craze by making New Mexico pueblo bread and learning how to con-jure homemade flour tortillas.

Opening a restaurant during a pandemic is, as you might imagine, not ideal. However, if there was a place designed for it, it would have to be Kitchen United Mix at 8023 Burnet Road, a workspace

for to-go only food (think of a food trailer court without the trailers [or the court]). Their first tenant, Hawaiian Bros, is now open for business as is a second, Hawt Chicken ('cause, you know, if there's one thing lacking in the 'hood, it's fried chicken). In all, we can expect at least eight more establishments to open at the Mix. Tatsumi, located in the former Red Pepper at 2700 West Anderson Lane, has delayed its grand opening to "to be announced" due to the outbreak. Backspace (1745 West Anderson Lane), Rise (at The Grove), Tony C's (2900 West Andersen Lane), Old Thousand (4805 Burnet Road), and Three Little Bears Clubhouse (2900 West Anderson Lane) are apparently still under development or construction.

Ronan Corporation, owner of 7113 Burnet Road -- present home of The Local Post and Austin Kolache and Koffee -- continues to pursue rezoning, termina-

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tion of a restricted covenant, and removal of a neighborhood plan restriction, and plans to build 360 residential units at that location. The owners of the old Night-hawk/Frisco at 6801 Burnet Road applied for a permit on April 2 to redevelop the property, along with 6717 Burnet Road and 6710 Burnet Lane, into a vertical mixed-use development with 325 units.

Austin Monthly released its annual "Best of" issue and gave accolades to Jew-Boy Burgers for the Best Burger (The Yenta), dipdipdip for the Best Ice Cream, and Eldorado for the Best Queso. Eater Austin, which generally snorts finely ground espresso beans every 10 minutes, has been relatively quiet in its listmaking since the outbreak. However, they have been closely following the outbreak's effect on the restaurant industry and providing helpful lists of who is doing take-out and who is re-opening under the governor's guidelines. They have given pan-

demic shout-outs to Pacha Organic Café and Foreign & Domestic for brunch; Ichiban for sushi; Honest Mary's, The Peached Tortilla, and La Cocina de Consuelo for family take-out/delivery; Foreign & Domestic and Texas French Bread for fresh bread; and Taco Flats and Cheko's for to-go margaritas. Thrillist propped Jack Allen's Kitchen, District

Kitchen, Pacha, and Foreign & Domestic for brunch and Fonda San Miguel and T-Loc's for Mexican, and included Hopdoddy and The Peached Tortilla in a list of the best burgers in Austin for take-out or delivery.

Big O's Pit BBQ

Thanks to that Angel of Brisket named Aaron Franklin, this town is lousy with great BBQ. And given that BBQ is one of the Texan's four major food groups (along with chicken fried steak, tacos, and tequila), that's a darn good thing. Allandale hosts several BBQ joints, but the granddaddy of the 'hood is Big O's Pit BBQ at 4707 Burnet Road.

The first Pit Bar-B-Q opened in San Marcos in 1966 (and I'm 97% sure Fuschak's Pit Bar-B-Q roots back to this original). They quickly opened up six additional locations in the next four years, including Pit Bar-B-Q No. 7 on Burnet Road in 1970. Bill and Roma Duff bought Pit No. 7 in 1977, and the family ran it for more than four decades with Roma still greeting regulars from the chopping block just a few years ago.

Enter Orlando Arriaga, who grew up in Allandale and remembers riding his bike over to The Pit for a quick bite. He opened Taco Shack, down the street on Medical Parkway, in 1996, a taco empire that now includes eight locations in Austin and Frisco. Still living in Allandale, Arriaga heard through the beeline that the Duffs were looking to retire, and worked out a deal in 2018 to take over The Pit.

Inspired by his coming transition to pit

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Allandale Eating

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boss, Arriaga traveled the state tasting and talking BBQ (this may be when he transitioned from Little O to Big O...) and then experimented with his backyard smoker. The result was a steel pit named Dorothy, placed out back of The Pit to complement the original brick pits for smoking locally sourced, prime meats. Besides putting in a few covered picnic tables (Big O's Corral) and adding "Big O's" to the name in March 2019, Arriaga has left the place as it was, which has an old-skool, working-class authenticity.

So how's the Q? It's quite good! I was able to visit pre-pandemic and enjoy a brisket and sausage plate (plus two sides; \$11.50) on the premises. The brisket was moist as all hell with a tasty, thick bark dark that glistened like the midnight sky. The jalapeno cheese sausage was amazing with a good burn and a luxurious, heart-stopping tidal wave of cheesy richness (and very well could be the best sausage I've ever had). The staff and service were

down-home friendly.

After the pandemic hit, I took advantage of Big O's new walk-up window ("You don't have to risk it to get your brisket!") to walk away with half-pounds of brisket (\$8.99, showing pre-pandemic prices), sausage (\$7.49), and turkey (\$8.49) as well as half a chicken (\$7.59). The glistening chicken is practically pollo confit, falling-off-the-bone good with a tasty rub. For a healthy choice, there's smoked turkey nested in a thin dark rub. As a side, I ordered the Hatch Chili [sic] Mac & Cheese ("Did you order a vegetable?" my out-of-town bride asked. "Yes," I replied, because, you know, Hatch chile is a vegetable). Because I called ahead, I was rewarded with a slice of burnt end brisket candy, well worth the price of pre-planning.

Big O's probably won't knock the usuals from their roost at the top of the eaterati's BBQ lists, but you know what? They don't have to. For me, it's good



Brisket and sausage plate from Big O's BBQ

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knowing that not only do I not have to stand in line for an hour for good BBQ, I also don't have to drive across town, either. Big O's will amply fulfill your BBQ needs with great BBQ, smoked right here in the neighborhood by a neighbor. For additional photos (in color!) of the chow, please head over to www.austinwanderlist.com.

Hawaiian Bros

I don't advise surfing into Hawaiian Bros uninformed like I did, because, after opening up the admirably biodegradable divided clamshell of chow, my first thought was: What in Sam Hill is this? To fully appreciate Hawaiian Bros, you have to first appreciate the history behind the meal.

Hawaiian Bros serve up Hawaiian plate lunches, a traditional dish of two huge scoops of white rice, macaroni salad, and a meaty entree. The format traces back to 1880s pineapple and sugar plantations, where the workers brought bento boxes of rice and leftover protein from the previous night's dinner for lunch. By the 1930s, lunch moved to food trucks and the bento boxes transitioned to divided plates. Because plantation workers came from all over the world, plate lunches

reflected that diversity with two giant scoops of rice, a pan-Asian protein, and, somehow, a mayonnaise-based macaroni salad becoming traditional components of the meal. This dish o' carbs and little to no veggies became the signature Hawaiian meal, now served in brick-n-mortars across the islands, the chicken-fried-steak plate of Hawaii.

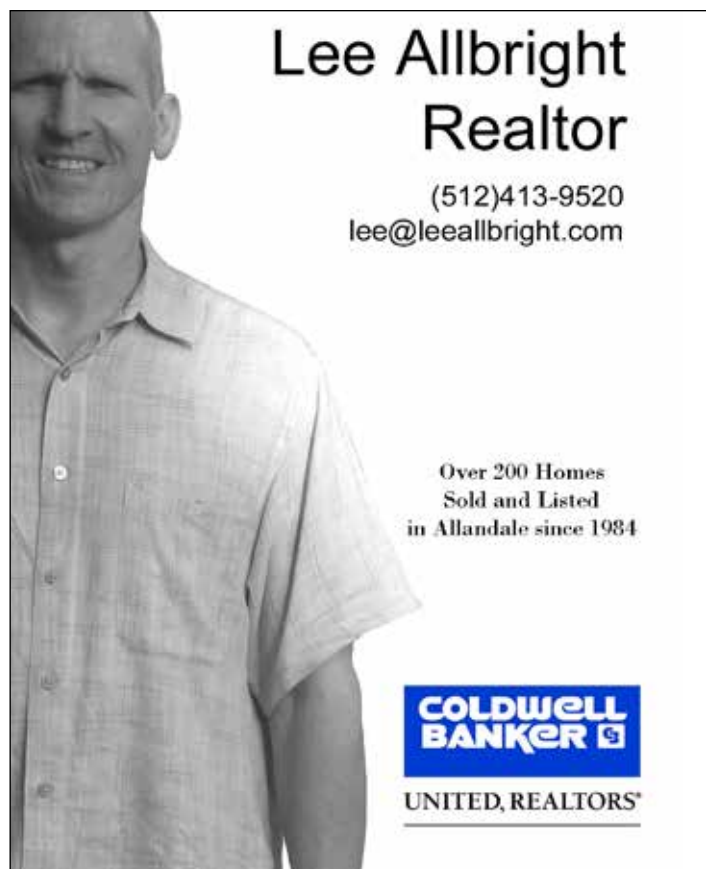
Hawaiian Bros keep it traditional while offering alternatives and substitutions if carb-after-carb-after-carb is not your thing. My what-in-Sam-Hill moment came when I saw two giant balls of sticky rice and the unexpected bizarreness of a macaroni salad. And if two giant rice balls are not enough, there's a bed of rice under the entree. The heft of an order is truly a weight to behold.

The rice is competent, and the macaroni salad is good, bringing back memories of picnics with grandma. But where the plates shine is with the entrees. We tried the Hawaiian Bros signature dish, the Huli Huli Chicken (\$8.50), chicken marinated overnight in the Bros' own huli huli recipe, a delicious concoction of teriyaki and, possibly, pineapple juice, honey or brown sugar, sesame oil, ginger, and garlic (the original recipe for huli huli died with its Portuguese-American inven-

tor in 2002). We split the entree with the spicy version of Molokai Chicken (\$11.50), which was my favorite: a dark sweet-and-spicy dish that I had to set aside to prevent overgorging. The bride noted that Hawaiian Bros uses good quality chicken with no icky bits. I first winced at the additional rice under the entree: was this a ploy to make the entree look bigger than it was? But that rice is a treasure, soaking up the sauce and just waiting to make you smile.

The bride, always worrying about my vegetable intake (probably for good reason), ordered the seasoned vegetables version of the plate (zucchini, carrots, broccoli, onions, mushrooms, squash, and red bell peppers, seasoned with a house spice blend; \$7.50). At first glance, it doesn't look impressive. Not a lot of veggies (much less than shown on the menu), and what veggies are there appear to be grandma-boiled. But the bride found them tasty and re-orderable. There's still not a lot of them (there must be a traditionalist working in the kitchen...), but you can swap out a rice ball for extra veggies. Other dishes include Luau Pig, Honolulu Chicken, and a couple of sand-

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Allandale Eating

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

wiches. And if all that rice isn't enough, they'll pitch you two more balls of water seed for a buck fifty. Appropriately enough, you can also get a side of fresh-sliced pineapple (which we adorned with shakes of five-spice and chopped garden mint) and the newly available SPAM Musubi (Hawaiians love SPAM!).

Hawaiian Bros' roots trace back to (1) a Hawaiian named Kekoa in Oregon, (2) a successful family chain in Oregon, and (3) the creation of Hawaiian Bros in the Kansas City area. Hawaiian Bros are also the first establishment to open in the Kitchen United Mix take-out/delivery space at 8023 Burnet Road (no in-house

dining). The Kitchen United online format goofily doesn't allow you to read the full description of menu items (and you can only read the menu when a space is open for business), so head over to the website of the original Hawaiian Bros to read all about it (and perhaps see future menu items for the Austin location).

Opening a food-joint during a pandemic is generally not ideal, but with take-out and delivery the preferred mode these days, Hawaiian Bros' timing is impeccable. Because of big-as-Kilauea portions, we amply eked three meals out of our order (and could have gained a fourth if we had been more organized). For additional photos (in color!) of the chow, please head over to www.austin-wanderlist.com. ☘



Combo plate with Huli Huli Chicken and Molokai Chicken from Hawaiian Bros.

Allandale Neighborhood Association Deed Restrictions Webapp

Janis Reinken

The Allandale Neighborhood Association has been developing a webapp to provide access to the neighborhood deed restriction documents for ANA Members. At this point, we have documents for 37 subdivisions (including a few resubs). Research continues, to add the remaining 93 sets of restrictions. The remainder will be posted when available.

Approximately 34 sets of deed restrictions are viewable on the app, providing access to deed restrictions for a little more than 1600 addresses. These sets of restrictions cover nearly half of the addresses in the database for Allandale. To access the deed restrictions webapp, ANA members must log in to the ANA allandaleneighbor.com website. This link leads to the Updated Users Guide. The first few pages show how to get to the site: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K5MFhLM6yNA6uvF0BawrK-kWl-wTmPw9LhrtT4O6xz0/edit?usp=sharing>

To be clear, the ANA hopes this webapp will be informative and helpful in making these documents available, yet this resource is not intended to be a substitute for the advice of legal counsel or the professional preparation of a title opinion or other title documents.

For those who don't know, the Allandale neighborhood was developed mainly

in the 1950's-60's, and the developers creating the various subdivisions established some model building and residential use requirements for the lots being sold. Of course, the developers creating the neighborhood subdivisions were designing what they thought would create an inviting, attractive, placid community environment where prospective homeowners would want to live. In a sense, their efforts proved successful, as the population of Allandale grew to a size greater than some small towns in Texas.

In general, the developers utilized deed restrictions as a device to create some neighborhood residential lot and building criteria, before the newer concept of homeowner associations began to take hold. When creating plats for the subdivisions and preparing to sell the various lots in the subdivisions, the developers set out certain covenants (restrictions) in the subdivision plats. Primarily, these criteria include setback distances, limits on building height and square footage, and other lot coverage and development features. Past court decisions have invalidated those deed restrictions which were found to be discriminatory.

The Allandale requirements became part of the subdivision documents filed in the Travis County plat records. As lots were sold, the restrictions were stated in

the deeds granted to the buyers. Since the subdivisions include a number of lots, many lots may have one common set of deed restrictions. Not all subdivisions have exactly the same requirements. Roughly speaking, there are about 124 unique subdivisions (not including resubdivisions) in Allandale.

When the original purchasers sold their properties, those deed restrictions were passed on to the next buyer in title documents. As such, these deed requirements "attached" to the land and became a feature in the continuity of the property ownership. In addition to determining the overall appearance and character of the neighborhood, the relevance of deed restrictions becomes evident in the context of structural placement and surface coverage of the lots, and the overall effect of those features on the downhill flow of water. The sloping topography of Allandale places most properties in the watershed of Shoal Creek. Broadly speaking, Allandale lots are subject to downflow of water in heavy rain, and properties closer to the creek are subject to the risk of rising water as well. The deed restrictions offer important guidance to property owners, prospective owners and developers, as the face of Allandale changes. ☘

More Good Food News: Kitchen United Mix Supports Keep Austin Fed

Neena Husid, Keep Austin Fed Fellow & Repack It Project Manager

California-based Kitchen United Mix, a multi-commercial kitchen space leasing to restaurants for delivery and to-go operations, has opened their first Austin location on Burnet Road, between Anderson Lane and Steck Avenue. Excitingly, the organization has awarded Keep Austin Fed rent-free commercial kitchen space for 60 days.

Keep Austin Fed, a local nonprofit that rescues and delivers surplus food to our neighbors in need, has dreamt of, but never had, commercial kitchen space of their own. This opportunity extends the organization's possibilities as a food rescuing operation. From the Kitchen United location, Keep Austin Fed will be able to not only rescue food, but to repurpose it, repackage it, and store it, as well. Several of the restaurants opening shop in the Kitchen United Mix space have already agreed to allow Keep Austin Fed to rescue their surplus food. The nonprofit's plan is to have a few volunteer chefs on hand to refresh the food received, while other volunteers ready it for delivery to recipient organizations.

According to Keep Austin Fed Executive Director Lisa Barden, "This sponsorship of a commercial kitchen space could not have come at a better time. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to minimize congregations of people, the process for food distribution has reverted back to providing people in need with pre-packed boxes of foods, primarily shelf-stable meals. This kitchen space will allow us to continue to provide healthier food options to the community by sorting bulk produce and even preparing multiple meals from the surplus food donations to be distributed to our partner nonprofit organizations who serve clients with limited ability to prepare fresh meals." ❧

Gullett Good News

Gwynne Ellen Ash



Although it might have felt a bit anticlimactic to both parents and kids after almost nine weeks of online instruction, summer officially started for Geckos on the afternoon of May 28. Students and teachers bid goodbye to each other all week on Zoom.

Nevertheless, the year still concluded with celebrations. On Wednesday, May 27, the Gullett Seniors car parade wound its way through Allandale. The annual parade usually walks through the halls of Gullett, but like all other things, it has adapted to our post-COVID-19 world. Also held on Wednesday was the all-school Zoom dance party. The culminating event for Thursday, May 28, was the livestream broadcast of the fifth-grade farewell video. Students and friends and family were welcome to join in for the online fifth-grade promotion ceremony.

In addition to saying goodbye to Gullett fifth-graders as they move on to become Lamar Middle School Scotties, Geckos also wave farewell to the Gullett librarian of almost two decades, Mrs. Kay Gooch (please see the column about Mrs. Gooch elsewhere in the newsletter).

Gullett principal Tisha Brown recently welcomed new assistant principal, Anthony Bromberg, for 2020-2021. She also wanted Gullett parents and students to know that if they ordered photos or yearbooks but did not update their address, these items are being safely stored until the school reopens. Gullett is also storing all students' school supplies until they can safely distribute them back to the students, prioritizing fifth-graders, since they are moving on to middle school. It is anticipated that items will not be returned before August.

AISD plans to continue updating its Learn at Home resources. You will also still be able to access the lessons Gullett teachers posted on Seesaw, BLEND, and Google Classroom over the summer. However, because teachers will be on summer break, they will not be posting any new lessons or providing feedback on lessons.

AISD is preparing up to nine different instructional scenarios for the 2020 -

2021 school year. What is happening in the fall is still uncertain, including potential start dates. Please follow the Gullett web page (<https://gullettgeckos.com>) and AISD social media for current news about the return to school.

Thank you again from Gullett Elementary, the school at the heart of Allandale. ❧

All About Lamar

Rick Schumacher

It has been and continues to be a very tumultuous time in our wider world, as well as in our own little community. In short, this has been a heck of a school year, Scotties, and it is not likely going to let up. Thank you all for being part of our community this year. Even with the challenges we have all faced, I know that our young Scotties are better off for being part of this community.



We are all wondering what is coming, particularly what is going to be the plan for moving into the next school year. According to AISD and Principal Tesano, there are three options being considered for the upcoming school year:

Model 1: A face-to-face model with an early start and built-in extended breaks (August – June).

Model 2: A face-to-face model with a delayed start and built-in extended breaks (September – July).

Model 3: A blended face-to-face and distance learning model.

AISD, like everyone else, is dealing with a huge number of unknowns. However, at present, Lamar plans to begin the next school year on August 18.

As we get into summer, Principal Tesano reminds us that all summer athletics are currently on hold, and to our student's chagrin, summer school is still on track, though it will be virtual this year. Those students that could use the extra learning opportunities will be contacted.

Sixth Grade Transition Camp is currently being planned for August 3. So make sure that your incoming sixth-grader is included.

As a point of safety, we need to remember that there are going to be many

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All About Lamar

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youths out and about, riding bikes and not paying attention. It is summer after all, and normal activities are cancelled. Please remember to keep an eye out for these kids.

This has been one of the most trying experiences we have experienced, individually and as a community. I hope that it helps build resilience in our youth and ourselves. However, please remember that middle school youth are already dealing with uncertainty and all the emotions that come with this transition period in their lives. Adding the uncertainty of our current world will have an important impact on them. Our mental health is important even when everything else seems to take precedence.

I hope that you all have a great summer despite all the uncertainty and we will see you again next year. ☼

It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

Kristin Knifton



Congratulations, Mac Knights, you did it! The end of this semester was not at all what anyone expected, and virtual learning came with a whole new set of challenges. Mac teachers and students stepped up to those challenges and, while no one I know really loved online learning, I think the community made the best of it.

Congratulations to all of the 2020 McCallum High School graduates! Since the May graduation was postponed, McCallum held a fantastic car parade for the senior class, as did Gullett Elementary for the seniors who attended there. Both events were really special for the kids and we appreciate all the neighbors who came and cheered them on. The class of 2020 will have a virtual graduation ceremony on June 16, at noon. You can watch at www.austinisd.org/aisdtv or on channel 22 for Spectrum (Time Warner Cable),

Grande, Google Fiber TV, and channel 99 for AT&T U-verse. An in-person graduation will hopefully take place at 1:00 p.m. on August 13 at the Frank Erwin Center.

This year's graduates are headed off to a variety of pursuits, including military, work, gap years, and college. Some of the colleges the members of the class of 2020 are headed to include The University of Texas at Austin, Trinity University, the University of Chicago, Tulane, Penn State University, Pace University's School of Performing Arts, The University of Michigan, Kansas State, and many more! For a full list of senior plans, visit the Mac counselors' website at www.maccounselors.com/2020-seniors.

It's time to say a big "hello and welcome" to incoming freshmen Knights! It's still unknown what the fall semester will look like, but rest assured that opportunities will be available for incoming freshmen (or transfers) to get to know the McCallum community. The Mac counselors' website is a great reference (www.maccounselors.com/rising-9th-grade).

I wish I could provide a list of the usual summer camps and activities offered at Mac. Due to the ongoing and ever-changing COVID-19 situation, it's best to check the website for current information (mccallumhs.com) or follow Mac Journalism either online macshieldonline.com or on Instagram.

Since my youngest child just graduated from Mac, the newsletter is in need of a volunteer to write this article. Please reach out to the editor if you are interested and willing. In my six years as a McCallum parent, I never once regretted that my kids were Mac Knights. McCallum was a fantastic experience for both of them – and for me too! I wish all continuing Knights all the best! ☼

More Mac: MacTheatre's 2020-21 "To Thine Own Self Be True" Season

Sabrina Wallace

As they say on Broadway, "It's only intermission!" MacTheatre WILL come back next season with an unrivaled range of vibrant shows, from re-imagined classics to stories from our own backyard. Eight fantastic shows will take you around the globe without leaving your seat! With crazily re-imagined classics, laugh-a-minute farces, and iconic spectacles, you won't want to miss a single moment. We may stream, we may amphitheater, we may Zoom, but in whichever format, we WILL!

"This above all: to thine own self be true
And it must follow, as the night the day
Thou canst not then be false to any man"
-- Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Joshua Denning explained to his students how one of his favorite quotes from *Hamlet* framed the theme of MacTheatre's 2020-21 season: "Polonius believes that a person can be harmless and good to others when he is financially sound. Therefore, he must be loyal to his best interests first, then take care of others,

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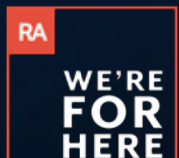


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just as Nick Bottom does in *Something Rotten*, as Alma does in *Summer & Smoke*, as Dolly Levi does in *Hello Dolly!* and as Lord Goring does in *An Ideal Husband*. To thine own self be true. Don't betray yourself, and if you stay true to what you believe deep down in your heart, you cannot purposefully hurt anyone."

***Something Rotten!* (Fall musical)**

Welcome to the '90s — the 1590s — long before the dawn of premium tickets, star casting, and reminders to turn off your cell phones. Brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play, but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical! But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self... and all that jazz. *Something Rotten!* is an uproarious dose of pure Broadway fun, and an irresistible ode to musicals, those dazzling creations that entertain us, inspire us, and remind us that everything's better with an exclamation point!

"Something Rotten! has established itself as Broadway's funniest, splashiest, slap-hap-

piest musical comedy in at least 400 years"
— *TimeOut NY*

Tennessee William's *Summer and Smoke* (Fall play)

A timid, high-minded young woman is trapped under the overbearing weight of her minister father and mentally ill mother. Hers is a soul that gazes to the stars, but her life is pinioned by the Puritanical values of her household and community. The return to town of a childhood friend, now a talented, promising young doctor, offers Alma a glimpse into a different way of being—but his recklessness and womanizing threaten to destroy them both if they acknowledge their mutual longings.

"A drama of unexpected richness"
— *Theatermania*

***Hello Dolly!* (Spring musical)**

The romantic and comic exploits of Dolly Gallagher-Levi, turn-of-the-century matchmaker and "woman who arranges things," are certain to thrill and entertain audiences again and again. A blockbuster Broadway hit that bursts with humor, romance, high-energy dancing, and some of the greatest songs in musical theater history. Some of the show's most unforgettable songs include, "Put On Your Sunday Clothes," "Before the Parade Passes By," "Hello, Dolly!" and "It Only Takes a Moment."

"Jerry Herman's music and lyrics are irresistibly endearing"

— *The Hollywood Reporter*

***An Ideal Husband* (Spring play)**

Based on Oscar Wilde's celebrated classic, this witty and sparkling comedy is one of the most beautiful nights you'll ever have in the theatre. Sir Robert Chiltern enjoys a reputation as the only truly honest man in politics —until an unwelcome visitor threatens to reveal the secret that could destroy his career.

"An Ideal Husband" transports us back to a world that seems more refined than ours"

— *NY Times*

"Immensely Entertaining"

— *Toronto Star*

Next spring, **don't miss your chance to see the other 2020-21 MacTheatre productions** from our talented Fine Arts Academy artists as part of THE REP: Student-Directed One Act Play Festival. Cutting-edge, innovative, student-conceived productions in one act -- absolutely FREE theatre for everyone!

* *Liliom*

* *Brainstorm*

* *Footsteps*

* The Student-written Musical (title to be created) ☿



ANA Board of Directors Meetings

Held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. & are open to the public.

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Even More Mac: To the MacTheatre Class of 2021 at McCallum High School

Sabrina Wallace

“The chances you take, the people you meet, the people you love, the faith that you have. That’s what’s going to define you” -- Denzel Washington

You have touched the lives of many people with your artistry, your performances, your love for live theatre. The Allandale neighborhood will always remember you!

During your freshman year, you taught us “The Lambeth Walk” with *Me and My Girl*, and made us ponder about love and beauty with the classic tale of *Cyrano*. Sophomore year, you took us back to the 60s with *Catch Me if You Can*, and held our hearts in your hands with *West Side Story*. Junior year, you recreated yourselves and made us appreciate once again the love for Shakespeare with your amazing rendition of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and took us with you inside the bizarro world of *Starmites*, all in one year!

You amazed us with your wondrous dancing feet, set designs, costumes, and ensemble in *42nd Street*. You brought everyone to



their feet with your outstanding delivery of the classic play, *Our Town*. Senior year, you were savage and rocked the house with the dark but beautiful *Jekyll & Hyde*. You showed us your vulnerability and creativity in every one of your student-written or -directed shows, and blew us away with your professionalism and passion for theatre arts. You finished your career at McCallum strong with the grandiose set and glorious music of *Grand Hotel*, and we hope you know you left a mark on the stage at 5600 Sunshine Drive. You delighted us, engaged us, and gave us all the opportunity to enjoy a little bit of Broadway, here, in our own backyard.

Whether you go off to college in the fall or take on a new job, the future may seem terrifying, but remember how you felt the moment just before curtain call. Remember how your passion, hard work, and the love of your castmates helped you conquer those fears. As you close the door to your high school days and you say goodbye to all the familiar faces, your classmates, your own room, or your safe space, remember the last four years at MacTheatre with fondness, for they have helped shape the person you have become, and your neighbors in Allandale are proud of each and every single one of you.

As the bard once said, “It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.” We know you can achieve wonders. We will be rooting for your success! Take a leap into the unknown with open eyes, embrace it, love every minute of it, because the next chapter of your lives is yours to define. Now, go and fly, fly into the future!

The MacTheatre Graduating Class of 2020: Abby, Benjamin, Blair, Catalina, Charlotte, Cora, Daryl, Dexter, Edward, Georgia, Julia, Lilah, Lucy, Madisyn, Maryanna, Mia, Meiriona, Graham (Peter), Rey, Samantha, Sam, Sebastian, Sophie, Stella (Sunny), Tosh, Owen, and Zoe.

CONGRATULATIONS! ❁

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Neighborhood Watch: Shoal Creek Cleanup

Julie Peckham

On Tuesday morning, June 2, nine neighborhood members gathered by the Northwest Park footbridge to don their gloves and grab a trash bag. We all headed into the creek bed, with some moving north and some making their way south, picking up pieces of plastic bags, trash, and assorted clothing items that recent rains had washed downstream, catching on various rocks and plants. The creek looked fabulous after. Even downstream from where we cleaned looked fairly free of trash, since the clean ups reduce what gets floated down towards Lady Bird Lake.

Our APD District Representative is Officer Doug Ellis

douglas.ellis@austintexas.gov (512) 974-5736 ☼

Lettuce Recycle! Questions from Readers

Dena Houston



Every week, I receive questions about recycling. I always answer each question personally, and then try to include the question and answer in Lettuce Recycle. If any reader has any recycling questions or comments, please send them to recycling@hpbwba.org. Below are some of the questions (and the answers) I have received in the last year:

WHAT DO I DO WITH CARDBOARD BOXES THAT WON'T FIT INTO MY BLUE BIN? Flatten them, tie them up, and set them next to your blue bin. The driver of the recycling truck might not pick them up when he services your blue bin, but he will call a truck to come get them that day.

IF I DON'T KNOW IF SOMETHING CAN BE PUT INTO THE BLUE OR GREEN BINS, SHOULD I THROW IT IN ANYWAY AND LET IT BE SORTED BY THE CITY? The answer is NO! If you are unsure about

whether or not something can go into either of these bins, put the items into your trash cart. Recycling contamination is very costly.

ARE TETRA PAKS RECYCLABLE? No, they are not recyclable in Austin. Tetra paks, as well as cardboard milk and juice containers, must be placed in the trash carts. They are made of multiple layers of materials that cannot be separated for recycling.

IS THERE ANY ADVANTAGE TO PUTTING FOOD INTO CURBSIDE COMPOSTING INSTEAD OF INTO THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL? Not really. Everything that goes into your curbside compost becomes soil. Everything that goes into your garbage disposal goes into the wastewater stream. In Austin, the sludge from the wastewater treatment plant is processed into Dillo Dirt (a type of fertilizer unique to Austin).

I'M STILL CONFUSED ABOUT HOW TO RECYCLE JARS AND THEIR LIDS. PLEASE CLARIFY. All glass bottles and jars need to have their lids removed. All plastic jars and bottles need to have their lids and caps left on.

MY PIZZA BOXES LOOK CLEAN. CAN I THROW THEM INTO MY BLUE RECYCLING BIN? No. Even if the box looks clean, it has absorbed grease that is not visible. This grease makes the cardboard unable to be processed properly for recycling. All pizza boxes can go into the green curbside compost collection bin or the trash can

PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do ☼

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Update during COVID-19

Emily Coleman, Superintendent, TSBVI

You may have driven by our campus and noticed the marquee, which states, "Campus closed, but learning continues from home." We are a resource to 11,125 students identified as blind, visually impaired, or deafblind across Texas, and we're offering something for all of them. For the students that usually attend school-year programs in Austin, they're receiving remote instruction at home. Our teachers are not only focused on learning, but intentionally putting social-emotional well-being first. Online offerings extend beyond academics to virtual prom, graduation, our spring play premiere, and more.

For the students that would've attended our summer or short-term programs during the year, we've also moved to an online platform. And, for the students who weren't planning to attend any programs at our school, we continue to offer professional development multiple times a week for their educators. We also offer support groups for families of any students in Texas with visual impairment. Through distance offerings, we're reaching thousands in our state and beyond.

Not having our students physically on campus is a challenge, and we miss them tremendously. However, we're finding ways to continue their progress at home through family partnerships and planning. Like you, we look forward to a time when we can all be together again. Until then, learning continues from home. ☼

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Allandale Real Estate Roundup

Debbie Trominski

With all the uncertainty that COVID-19 has brought into our lives, we are beginning to see how it has affected the real estate market. In a nutshell, we are experiencing a rapid rebound with prices nudging upward, due to an even more constricted supply in available housing inventory. In the greater Austin area, indicators from April's sales figures of single-family homes show a remarkable recovery from the dramatic drop in new listings and pending sales activity following the March 13th declaration of a national emergency.

After six weeks of rapidly decreasing sales volume and great uncertainty, Travis County finished the last two weeks in April with a surge in pending sales of single-family homes that equaled over 90% of the sales activity as compared to the same time in 2019. Even more impressive, in the final week of April, pending sales in Williamson County actually outpaced 2019's year-over-year figures. These numbers show that, in contrast to other struggling metropolitan areas, such as Philadelphia, Boston and New York, Austin's market is rebounding with strength in these first few uncertain weeks out of quarantine.

While final May figures aren't available at the time of writing this article, the rebound appears to be gathering steam as of mid-May, with new listing activity versus May 2019 being down by 17% and pending sales activity up by 19% throughout the Austin area. Meanwhile, our Allandale location continues to thrive. According to the Austin Board of Realtors, as of the end of April, new listings and pending sales are down 25% and 53% year-over-year, respectively, as compared to 2019, likely as a result of COVID-19's impact on the market.

Over the last 12 months, Allandale home prices averaged out at \$740,355. That's up just a bit from \$722,635 in 2019 and from \$638,635 in 2018. Meanwhile, the number of days homes are on the market, on average, has declined from 32 days in 2018 and 2019 to 27 in the past 12 months. The number of homes sold rose from 134 in 2019 to 143 in the past 12 months, and the number of closed sales was up 17% in April 2020 compared to April 2019.

Year-to-date, new listings, pending sales and closed sales are all up, 16.7%, 12.5% and 29%, respectively, year-over-year as compared to 2019 in Allandale.

Allandale remains a strong seller's market with very strong demand and a limited inventory of homes. As a result, fundamental supply and demand dynamics continue to put upward pressure on home prices in Allandale. ☼



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